

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system, a method of distributing product data stored in at least one computer readable storage medium for generating an electronic catalog, comprising:

capturing product data for a plurality of products according to a data model, ~~said product data including language availability information that indicates a set of available languages in which the plurality of products and documentation associated with the plurality of products are available, and~~ the data model having one or more classes, each one of the one or more classes being defined by one or more categories, each of the one or more categories being defined by an attribute group having one or more attributes;

storing the product data in said at least one computer readable storage medium, wherein the stored product data is suitable for use in an electronic catalog;

receiving language availability information indicative of a plurality of languages in which the product data associated with the plurality of products are available;

receiving a customer profile ~~from one or more customers, each customer profile indicating that specifies~~ one or more of the plurality of products for which product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding~~ customer for use in generating an electronic catalog;

receiving a set of language selections from ~~one or more of~~ the customer[[s]] indicating a plurality of languages in which the product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding one of the~~ customer[[s]];

storing the set of language selections for ~~each of~~ the customer[[s]] in said at least one computer readable storage medium such that the set of language selections is associated with the ~~corresponding~~ customer profile;

distributing the stored product data to ~~each of the one or more~~ the customer[[s]] in accordance with the customer profile in the plurality of languages indicated in the ~~corresponding~~ set of language selections; and

incorporating said product data into an electronic catalog.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein providing the product data comprises:

providing a translation for one or more of the attributes associated with the products specified in the customer profile ~~corresponding to each of the customers.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein providing a translation for one or more of the attributes associated with the products specified in the customer profile comprises:

providing a translation associated with one or more values associated with the one or more attributes; and

providing a translation associated with one or more units associated with the one or more attributes.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein providing the product data in the plurality of languages comprises:

providing a translation for at least one of a class, a category, an attribute group, and an attribute associated with the product.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of capturing data for use in a catalog, comprising:

classifying a product according to a data model having one or more classes, wherein each of the classes is arranged to identify one or more associated categories and each of the categories is arranged to identify an associated attribute group having one or more attributes, each attribute having an associated possible value list that identifies values that are selectable as values for the associated attribute;

selecting at least one of the values in the associated possible value list for selected attributes in the associated attribute group;

inputting the selected values for the product to the system product data file; and

inputting to the system product data file one or more languages in which the product and documentation associated with the product are available.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the customer profile further identifies customer searchable attribute preferences that specify attributes associated with the one or more of the plurality of products for which values are to be transmitted;

obtaining attribute values for the specified attributes from the system product data file; and

wherein providing the product data includes generating a vocabulary file in the plurality of languages based upon the specified attributes for which attribute values were obtained.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of querying a catalog database over the Internet, the method comprising:

accepting a user query, the user query including a customer SKU associated with a product, a language selection in which information associated with the product is desired, and a component request that requests a component associated with the product, wherein the component is at least one of a product description, technical specifications, a marketing description, an image, and a URL associated with the product;

retrieving the component associated with the component request; and

producing the component.

9. (Withdrawn) A data structure suitable for use in collecting, distributing or storing product data for use in a catalog, the data structure being based on a data model having one or more classes, wherein each of the classes has one or more associated categories, the data structure being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising:

at least one class definition, each class definition being arranged to identify one or more associated categories;

a plurality of category definitions, each category definition being arranged to identify an associated attribute group; and

a plurality of attribute group definitions, each attribute group definition being arranged to identify one or more attributes that are associated with the attribute group,

each attribute having an associated possible value list that identifies values that are selectable as values for the associated attribute;

wherein each of the attributes is associated with a language dependent indicator that indicates availability of a translation of record data associated with the corresponding attribute when the language dependent indicator is in a predefined state.

10. (Withdrawn) A data structure suitable for use in collecting, distributing or storing product data for use in a catalog, the data structure being based on a data model having one or more classes, wherein each of the classes has one or more associated categories, the data structure being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising:

at least one class definition, each class definition being arranged to identify one or more associated categories;

a plurality of category definitions, each category definition being arranged to identify an associated attribute group;

a plurality of attribute group definitions, each attribute group definition being arranged to identify one or more attributes that are associated with the attribute group, each attribute having an associated possible value list that identifies values that are selectable as values for the associated attribute; and

a translation table including a translation associated with one or more of the category definitions.

11. (Withdrawn) The data structure as recited in claim 10, wherein the translation includes a translation in one or more languages of at least one of a class, a category, an attribute group, and an attribute associated with one or more of the plurality of category definitions.

12. (Withdrawn) The data structure as recited in claim 10, wherein each attribute has an associated possible unit list that identifies units that are selectable as values for the associated attribute, wherein the translation includes a translation in one or more languages of at least one of the values and the units that are selectable for the associated attribute.

13. (Withdrawn) A data structure suitable for use in collecting, distributing, or storing product data for a plurality of products, the product data being suitable for use in a catalog, the products being classified according to a data model having one or more classes, wherein each of the classes is arranged to identify one or more associated categories and each of the categories is arranged to identify an associated attribute group having one or more attributes, each attribute having an associated possible value list that identifies values that are selectable as values for the associated attribute, the data structure being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising:

a plurality of system SKUs, each system SKU being arranged to identify one of the plurality of products;

a plurality of manufacturer SKUs, each manufacturer SKU being associated with one of the plurality of system SKUs;

an attribute table in which selected attributes for each of the products are stored, each of the selected attributes being identified by the corresponding system SKU and having at least one of the values in the associated possible value list; and

a languages table indicating one or more languages in which each one of the plurality of products and documentation associated with each one of the plurality of products are available.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of products are manufactured by a plurality of manufacturers.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for distributing data for generating an electronic catalog, comprising:

means for capturing product data for a plurality of products according to a data model, ~~said product data including language availability information that indicates a set of available languages in which the plurality of products and documentation associated with the plurality of products are available, and~~ the data model having one or more classes, each one of the one or more classes being defined by one or more categories, each of the one or more categories being defined by an attribute group having one or more attributes;

means for storing the product data and retrieving the stored product data, wherein the stored product data is suitable for use in an electronic catalog;

means for receiving language availability information indicative of a plurality of languages in which the product data associated with the plurality of products are available;

means for receiving a customer profile ~~from one or more customers, each customer profile~~ indicating one or more of the plurality of products for which product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding~~ customer for use in generating an electronic catalog;

means for receiving a set of language selections from ~~one or more of the customer[[s]]~~ indicating a plurality of languages in which the product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding one of the customer[[s]]~~;

means for storing the set of language selections for ~~each of the customer[[s]]~~ such that the set of language selections is associated with the ~~corresponding~~ customer profile; and

means for distributing the stored product data to ~~each of the one or more the~~ customer[[s]] in accordance with the customer profile in the plurality of languages indicated in the ~~corresponding~~ set of language selections.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for distributing data for generating an electronic catalog, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, at least one of the processor and the memory being adapted for:

capturing product data for a plurality of products according to a data model, said plurality of products being manufactured by a plurality of manufacturers, ~~said product data including language availability information that indicates a set of available languages in which the plurality of products and documentation associated with the plurality of products are available,~~ and the data model having one or more classes, each one of the one or more classes being defined by one or more categories, each of the one or more categories being defined by an attribute group having one or more attributes;

storing the product data, wherein the stored product data is suitable for use in an electronic catalog;

receiving language availability information indicative of a plurality of languages in which the product data associated with the plurality of products are available;

receiving a customer profile from ~~one or more customers, each~~ a customer profile indicating one or more of the plurality of products for which product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding~~ customer for use in generating a catalog;

receiving a set of language selections from ~~one or more of~~ the customer[[s]] indicating a plurality of languages in which the product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding one of the~~ customer[[s]];

storing the set of language selections for ~~each of~~ the customer[[s]] such that the set of language selections is associated with the ~~corresponding~~ customer profile; and

distributing the product data in accordance with the customer profile to ~~each of the one or more~~ customer[[s]] in the plurality of languages indicated in the ~~corresponding~~ set of language selections for incorporation in an electronic catalog.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing thereon computer-readable instructions for distributing product data for use in an electronic catalog, comprising:

instructions for capturing product data for a plurality of products according to a data model, said plurality of products being manufactured by a plurality of manufacturers, ~~said product data including language availability information that indicates a set of available languages in which the plurality of products and documentation associated with the plurality of products are available, and~~ the data model having one or more classes, each one of the one or more classes being defined by one or more categories, each of the one or more categories being defined by an attribute group having one or more attributes; [[and]]

instructions for storing the product data, wherein the stored product data is suitable for use in an electronic catalog;

instructions for receiving language availability information indicative of a plurality of languages in which the product data associated with the plurality of products are available;

instructions for receiving a customer profile from ~~one or more customers, each a~~ customer ~~profile~~ indicating one or more of the plurality of products for which product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding~~ customer for use in generating a catalog;

instructions for receiving a set of language selections from ~~one or more of the~~ customer[[s]] indicating one or more languages in which the product data is to be transmitted to the ~~corresponding one of the~~ customer[[s]];

instructions for storing the set of language selections for ~~each of the~~ customer[[s]] such that the set of language selections is associated with the ~~corresponding~~ customer profile, and

instructions for distributing the stored product data to ~~each of the one or more~~ customer[[s]] in accordance with the customer profile in the plurality of languages indicated in the ~~corresponding~~ set of language selections for incorporation into an electronic catalog.